

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A composition comprising
plural peptides having an average chain length of from 3.0 to 5.0, free saccharides and
polysaccharides, wherein:

said plural peptides comprise from

24 to 38 % by weight of glutamic acid,

from 4 to 20 % by weight of glycine,

from 5 to 10 % by weight of aspartic acid,

from 4 to 9 % by weight of proline and

from 4 to 8 % by weight of serine

on the basis of the total weight of amino acids forming said peptides, and

said free saccharides have a saccharide composition comprising

from 2 to 6% by weight of glucose,

from 0.5 to 5% by weight of xylose and

from 0.5 to 3% by weight of arabinose, and

said polysaccharides have a saccharide composition comprising

from 6 to 16% by weight of glucose,

from 3 to 12% by weight of xylose and

from 0.5 to 4% by weight of arabinose

wherein said composition is formed by

subjecting barley shochu stillage, obtained by the production of shochu from barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) as a raw material, to solid-liquid separation to obtain a liquid fraction and

subjecting the liquid fraction to a separation treatment by adsorption using a synthetic adsorbent, where unadsorbed product of said separation treatment is said composition.

2. (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the total content of amino acids in the peptides is from 8 to 14% by weight on the basis of the total weight of the free amino acids and the amino acids in said peptides.

3. (Previously presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further contains free amino acids and organic acids.

4. (Previously presented): The composition according to claim 3, wherein the composition contains

from 4 to 12% by weight of the free amino acids,

from 5 to 10% by weight of the free saccharides,

from 15 to 25% by weight of the polysaccharides and

from 2 to 8% by weight of the organic acids

on the basis of the total weight of the unabsorbed fraction.

5. (Previously presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a freeze-dried powder.

6. (Previously presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition.

7. (Original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic adsorbent is an aromatic synthetic adsorbent or a methacrylic synthetic adsorbent.

8. (Withdrawn): A process for producing a composition having an activity of inhibiting the onset of alcoholic hepatopathy and an activity of healing it and comprising an unadsorbed fraction, which comprises a step of subjecting a barley *shochu* stillage byproduced in the production of *shochu* from a barley as a raw material to solid-liquid separation to obtain a liquid fraction and a step of subjecting the liquid fraction to a separation treatment by adsorption using a synthetic adsorbent to obtain the unadsorbed fraction, in which the unadsorbed fraction contains plural peptides having an average chain length of from 3.0 to 5.0, and these peptides comprise from 24 to 38% of glutamic acid, from 4 to 20% of glycine, from 5 to 10% of aspartic acid, from 4 to 9% of proline and from 4 to 8% of serine in terms of an amino acid composition ratio when the total content of amino acids derived from the peptides is defined as 100%.

9. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 8, which further comprises a step of freeze-drying the unadsorbed fraction.

10. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 8, wherein the synthetic adsorbent is an aromatic synthetic adsorbent or a methacrylic synthetic adsorbent.

11. (Withdrawn): A process for producing a barley *shochu* and a composition comprising an unadsorbed fraction, characterized by comprising a step (A) of fermenting a barley koji produced from a husked barley or a polished barley as a raw material and a *shochu* yeast to form a mature mash and distilling the mature mash to produce the barley *shochu*, and a step (B) of subjecting a barley *shochu* stillage byproduced in the production of the barley *shochu* in the step

(A) to solid-liquid separation to obtain a liquid fraction and subjecting the liquid fraction to a separation treatment by adsorption using a synthetic adsorbent to obtain the unadsorbed fraction, in which the unadsorbed fraction contains plural peptides having an average chain length of from 3.0 to 5.0, these peptides comprise from 24 to 38% of glutamic acid, from 4 to 20% of glycine, from 5 to 10% of aspartic acid, from 4 to 9% of proline and from 4 to 8% of serine in terms of an amino acid composition ratio when the total content of amino acids derived from the peptides is defined as 100%, an activity of inhibiting the onset of alcoholic hepatopathy and an activity of healing it are provided, and the steps (A) and (B) are conducted continuously.

12. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 11, characterized in that in the step (A), a husked barley or a polished barley prepared separately is fermented along with the barley koji and the *shochu* yeast in obtaining the mature mash.

13. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the synthetic adsorbent is an aromatic synthetic adsorbent or a methacrylic synthetic adsorbent.

14. (Withdrawn): A food composition having an activity of inhibiting the onset of alcoholic hepatopathy and an activity of healing it as well as an excellent palatability, the composition comprising an unadsorbed fraction which is formed by subjecting a barley *shochu* stillage byproduct in the production of *shochu* from a barley as a raw material to solid-liquid separation to obtain a liquid fraction and subjecting the liquid fraction to a separation treatment by adsorption using a synthetic adsorbent, in which the unadsorbed fraction contains plural peptides having an average chain length of from 3.0 to 5.0, and these peptides comprise from 24 to 38% of glutamic acid, from 4 to 20% of glycine, from 5 to 10% of aspartic acid, from 4 to 9%

of proline and from 4 to 8% of serine in terms of an amino acid composition ratio when the total content of amino acids derived from the peptides is defined as 100%.

15. (Withdrawn): The food composition according to claim 14, wherein the total content of amino acids derived from the peptides is from 8 to 14% by weight.

16. (Withdrawn): The food composition according to claim 14, wherein the unadsorbed fraction further contains free amino acids, free saccharides, polysaccharides and organic acids.

17. (Withdrawn): The food composition according to claim 16, wherein the unadsorbed fraction contains from 4 to 12% by weight of the free amino acids, from 5 to 10% by weight of the free saccharides, from 15 to 25% by weight of the polysaccharides and from 2 to 8% by weight of the organic acids.

18. (Withdrawn): The food composition according to claim 14, wherein the unadsorbed fraction is in the form of a freeze-dried powder.

19. (Withdrawn): The food composition according to claim 14, which is used as a seasoning.

20. (Withdrawn): The food composition according to claim 14, wherein the synthetic adsorbent is an aromatic synthetic adsorbent or a methacrylic synthetic adsorbent.

21. (Withdrawn): A process for producing a food composition comprising an unadsorbed fraction, which comprises a step of subjecting a barley *shochu* stillage byproduced in the production of *shochu* from a barley as a raw material to solid-liquid separation to obtain a liquid fraction and a step of subjecting the liquid fraction to a separation treatment by adsorption using a synthetic adsorbent to obtain the unadsorbed fraction, in which the unadsorbed fraction

contains plural peptides having an average chain length of from 3.0 to 5.0, these peptides comprise from 24 to 38% of glutamic acid, from 4 to 20% of glycine, from 5 to 10% of aspartic acid, from 4 to 9% of proline and from 4 to 8% of serine in terms of an amino acid composition ratio when the total content of amino acids derived from the peptides is defined as 100%.

22. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 21, which further comprises a step of freeze-drying the unadsorbed fraction.

23. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 21, wherein the synthetic adsorbent is an aromatic synthetic adsorbent or a methacrylic synthetic adsorbent.

24. (Withdrawn): A process for continuously producing a barley *shochu* and food composition comprising an unadsorbed fraction, characterized by comprising a step (A) of fermenting a barley koji produced from a husked barley or a polished barley as a raw material and a *shochu* yeast to form a mature mash and distilling the mature mash to produce the barley *shochu*, and a step (B) of subjecting a barley *shochu* stillage byproduced in the production of the barley *shochu* in the step (A) to solid-liquid separation to obtain a liquid fraction and subjecting the liquid fraction to a separation treatment by adsorption using a synthetic adsorbent to obtain the unadsorbed fraction, in which the unadsorbed fraction contains plural peptides having an average chain length of from 3.0 to 5.0, these peptides comprise from 24 to 38% of glutamic acid, from 4 to 20% of glycine, from 5 to 10% of aspartic acid, from 4 to 9% of proline and from 4 to 8% of serine in terms of an amino acid composition ratio when the total content of amino acids derived from the peptides is defined as 100%, an activity of inhibiting the onset of

alcoholic hepatopathy, an activity of healing it and an excellent palatability are provided, and the steps (A) and (B) are conducted continuously.

25. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 24, characterized in that in the step (A), a husked barley or a polished barley prepared separately is fermented along with the barley koji and the *shochu* yeast in obtaining the mature mash.

26. (Withdrawn): The process according to claim 24 or 25, wherein the synthetic adsorbent is an aromatic synthetic adsorbent or a methacrylic synthetic adsorbent.

27. (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is capable of treating ~~the onset of alcoholic hepatopathy~~ alcoholic fatty liver in a patient in need thereof.

28. (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 4, wherein said free amino acids comprise from 20 to 28% of proline, from 11 to 18% of alanine, from 11 to 17% of leucine, from 10 to 17% of arginine and from 13 to 20% of glutamic acid.

29. (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition contains from 18 to 25% by weight of said polysaccharides.

30. (New): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is capable of preventing the on-set of alcoholic fatty liver in a patient in need thereof.